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REMEMBERING 'POLKEY' Thousands pay last respects

By Mika Mandelbaum
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

About 2,100 people shared laughter and tears at a memorial service last night to remember and honor women's basketball center Shawntinice Polk, who died Monday morning from cardiac arrest after a blood clot traveled from one of her legs to her lungs.

Polk's teammates, friends, family and fans came together for a memorial service in McKale Center, the place where she collapsed and the place coach Joan Bonvicini said was Polk's second home.

Although many knew her personally, there were also many people who didn't know Polk and said they felt connected to her.

"You just can't help but be a part of the kid's personal lives when you go to the games and read about them in the paper," said Deana Puccinelli, a fan of UA athletics. "I'm sad just like the people who've known her better than I."

Gordon and Helen Nelson said they have been going to almost every UA women's basketball game for 25 years.

"We come to almost all the games," Gordon Nelson said. "We enjoyed watching the girls play and watching Polkey play. She



Shawntinice Polk's teammate Shannon Hobson leads her team and the audience in singing 'Stomp' by Kirk Franklin. "Stomp" was a jam we sang, lead by Polkey, on the bus to away games, Hobson said.

was a great ball player."

Members of the community remembered Polk for her love of children.

Barbara McFadden and Karen Gavender, co-owners of McFadden/Gavender Advertising in Tucson, worked with Polk at the Tucson Summer Pro League

this year.

Gavender said she specifically remembered a luncheon where Polk sat down with several kids and told them they could be anything they wanted to be.

"We got to see how the other kids saw her," McFadden said. "The little girls were just in awe

of her. She just got down on their level and talked to them."

Polk was a role model to many young girls, including 11-year-old Amanda Maass, who attended a basketball camp at the UA a few years ago.

"She was always talking and

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Bike rules change, actions have not

By Seth Mauzy
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Rules for bicyclists traveling through the Olive Pedestrian Underpass tunnel have changed, allowing bicyclists to legally ride through the tunnel between certain hours, but some pedestrians said cyclists are still zipping through tunnels and creating a safety hazard.

The tunnels at North Highland Avenue and Warren Avenue have clearly marked bike lanes separating bicyclists from pedestrians. The Olive Pedestrian Underpass tunnel, however, has signs instructing bicyclists to walk their bikes between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The previous signs instructed bicyclists to walk their bikes at all times under penalty of a fine.

Charles Franz, program coordinator for alternative transportation, said bicycles are restricted in the Olive Street tunnel because it is the busiest of the three tunnels.

"It is a very congested area during those hours," Franz said. "There is also a lot of east-west traffic across that area as well. It creates a situation unique from the other tunnels."

Franz said a number of factors contributed to the decision to

change the signs.

"There is very little activity outside of the posted hours," Franz said. "And with the tunnel's size it makes sense to relax regulations outside of that time period."

The new signs do not mention a fine, but Franz said students who are caught disobeying the signs can still

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Some students living in the downtown area have reported finding transients sleeping, loitering and panhandling in their yards or on their porches. Police say there is little to be done to prevent such offenses.

Transients on 4th Ave. concern students

By Cassie Blombaum
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Students living near North Fourth Avenue have complained about homeless people wandering in front of and onto their property, but police said there is not much that can be done to prevent such intrusions.

Michael Rodarte, a pre-pharmacy sophomore, said he lives on East Ninth Street at the corner of North Fourth Avenue, and though the presence of transients doesn't usually concern him, he is beginning to feel unsafe after waking up to see a man sitting in the backyard

outside his bedroom window.

Later he and his roommates found a wallet in their backyard with cards scattered all around it, Rodarte said.

"One of the cards was from Alcoholics Anonymous, and a couple others were from Behavioral Services," Rodarte said. "This was a little scary because a crazy person somehow jumped a wall and was hanging outside my bedroom."

Their backyard is surrounded by a 6-foot wall and there is also a locked gate at the entrance, said Elin Sigurdson, an undeclared sophomore who also lives at the house.

"He would have had to climb the wall

to get in," Sigurdson said.

Although it is strange to have homeless people on the property, especially at night, Sigurdson said she does not fear for her safety.

"I don't think that anybody could get in and harm me, but it's kind of creepy," Sigurdson said.

In addition to hanging out in their backyard, transients also leave trash in the front yard area and sit in front of the house drinking alcohol and asking passers-by for money, Rodarte said.

Rodarte said he has called crime

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